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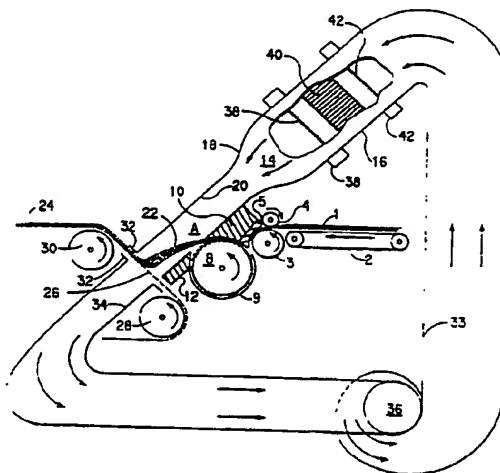
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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPENING FIBERS USING A MODIFIED DISPERSER PLATE



(57) Abstract

A method is disclosed for opening fibers. Preferably, the fibers are opened in the high speed production of uniform, light-weight webs by air-laydown of textile fibers. In a preferred embodiment, a rotating toothed disperser roll is used to open and doff fibers into an air stream of high uniform velocity and low turbulence to form a thin fiber stream from which the fibers are deposited inweb form on a moving screen. A curved disperser plate shrouds the disperser roll and prevents premature doffing. By using a specific disperser plate having an exposed rib length between 0.01 to 0.20 inches and a rib spacing between 0.15 to 2.0 inches, web quality is dramatically improved due to the significantly lower number of defects remaining in the web as unopened fiber chips.

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